

CHAPTER 18

PRINTER AND PRINT BUFFER

List of Contents

Para.	Title	Page
1	GENERAL	18-2
2	PRINTER	18-2
3	PRINT BUFFER	18-4

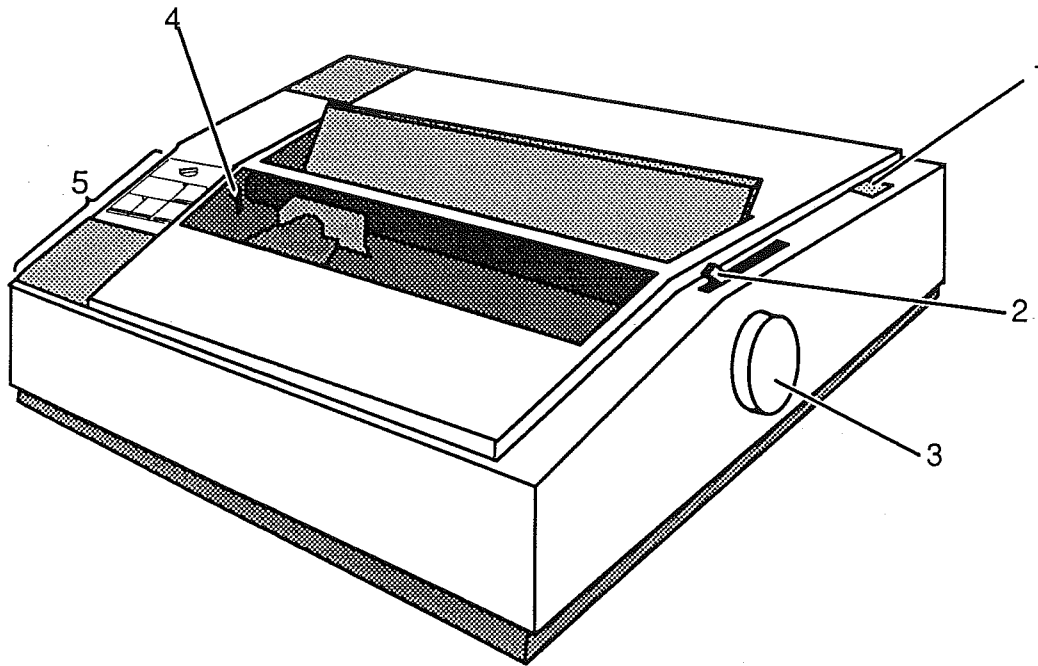


Figure 18.1 - Printer

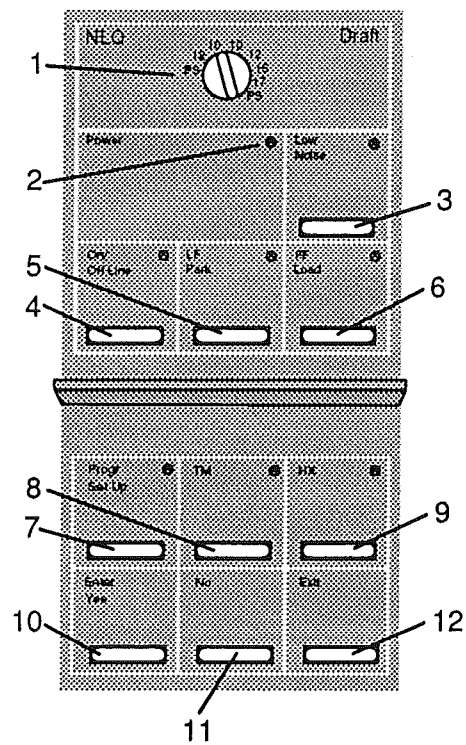


Figure 18.2 - Printer Control Panel

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DR61G(000)-1-2-18

1 GENERAL

The PRINTER is a Tractor Feed Dot Matrix Printer that will print on continuous fan fold paper. The paper may be input from underneath the base or from the rear of the printer.

The speed of data transmission from the Terminal can be higher than the rate at which it may be absorbed by the Printer. To prevent loss of Data under these conditions a PRINTER BUFFER is installed to absorb the overflow of Data from the Terminal and then retransmit it to the PRINTER at an acceptable rate.

2 PRINTER

The printer has the following facilities available to the Operator:

POWER ON/OFF SWITCH (1)

This rocker switch at the rear of the Printer controls the power input to the Printer. When this Switch is 'On' the STATUS Indicator (2) on the Printer Control Panel will display a status indication.

PLATEN KNOB (2)

Rotation of this knob turns the Printer Roller and enables the paper to be moved up or down.

FRICITION RELEASE LEVER (3)

This lever in the forward position, (toward the front of the printer), engages the pin feed for form feed paper. The lever in the rearmost position is for friction feed or when loading paper into the printer.

PAPER THICKNESS LEVER (4)

This lever has multiple positions for the adjustment of the Print Head Carrier Shaft relative to the Platen Roller. This thickness adjustment allows for the use of multiple copy paper with carbon interleaving. For normal single copy paper feed this lever will be set to the rearmost positions 1 or 2 (nearest the platen).

CONTROL PANEL (5)

This control panel contains user selectable options and the provisions for entering an interactive mode for configuring the printer. The following items are present on the control panel. Refer to illustration 18.2 for the following items:

NLQ - DRAFT (1)

This rotary switch, when set to the appropriate position, will control the printer mode and pitch (number of characters per inch). When set to 'Draft', the right-hand side, will give a draft quality (single pass) printout in a fixed pitch of 17, 15, 12 or 10 or Proportionally Spaced according to the setting. When set to 'NLQ', the left-hand side, will give a near letter quality (double pass) printout in a fixed pitch of 12 or 10 or Proportionally Spaced according to the setting.

With this switch set to the central position the pitch setting is controlled by the computer commands.

POWER INDICATOR (2)

This amber light emitting diode will be illuminated whilst the printer is switched on and the 110V ac power is available.

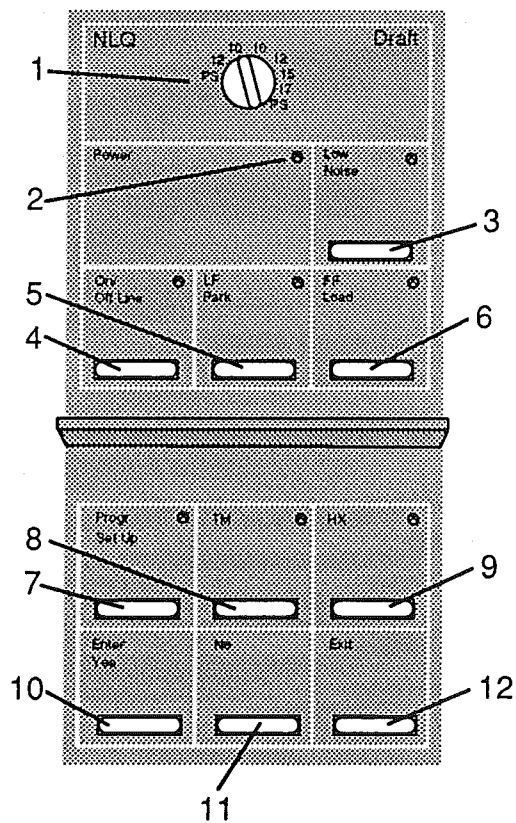


Figure 18.2 - Printer Control Panel

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DR61G(000)-1-2-18

LOW NOISE SWITCH (3)

Depressing this push-on/push-off switch will toggle the printer between normal and low noise operating mode. In the low noise mode the printer only prints half the number of dots on each pass. Thereby taking two passes to achieve normal quality of print. This mode of printing will lower the noise level by approximately 5db.

The amber light emitting diode will be illuminated whilst the printer is in the Low Noise mode.

ON LINE SWITCH (4)

This push-on/push-off type switch enables the Printer to be 'toggled' between On Line and Off Line condition. When the Printer is 'On Line' the light emitting diode will be illuminated with a steady light.

This switch is also used in conjunction with the LF/PARK (5) and FF/LOAD (6) Switches for parking and load functions.

LF (LINE FEED)/PARK SWITCH (5)

This push button switch enables the paper to be advanced one line space when momentarily depressed.

If the ON/OFF LINE Switch (4) is held in the depressed position and this LF/PARK Switch then depressed the top of the paper will be withdrawn from the platen area to a 'park' position in the tractor feed.

FF/LOAD SWITCH (6)

This push button switch when depressed, where the printer is 'Off Line', will feed the paper to the first print position on the next sheet.

If the ON/OFF LINE Switch (4) is held in the depressed position and this FF/LOAD Switch then depressed the paper will be fed from the platen 'park' area to the print position. This function in progress will be indicated by the ON/OFF LINE Indicator flashing.

PROG/SET UP SWITCH (7)

This push-on/push-off type switch, when depressed, will toggle the printer between normal printing and a function setting mode. When in the function setting mode the amber light emitting diode will be illuminated.

NOTE: The printer functions will normally be set at the time of installation and will not require user resetting. For a detailed description of the function settings and adjustments refer to the printer manufacturer's information in Part 7 of the Technical Manual.

TM (TRANSPARENT MODE) SWITCH (8)

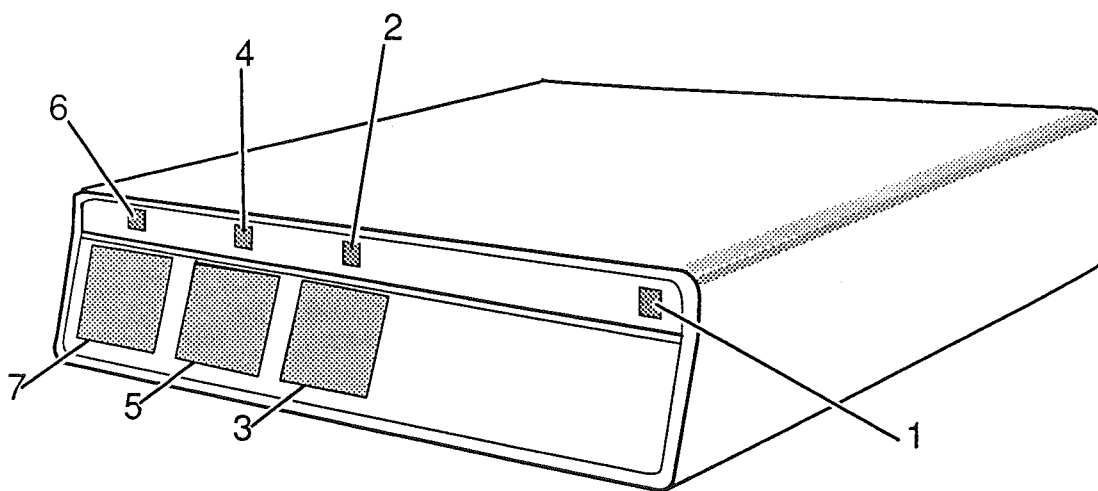
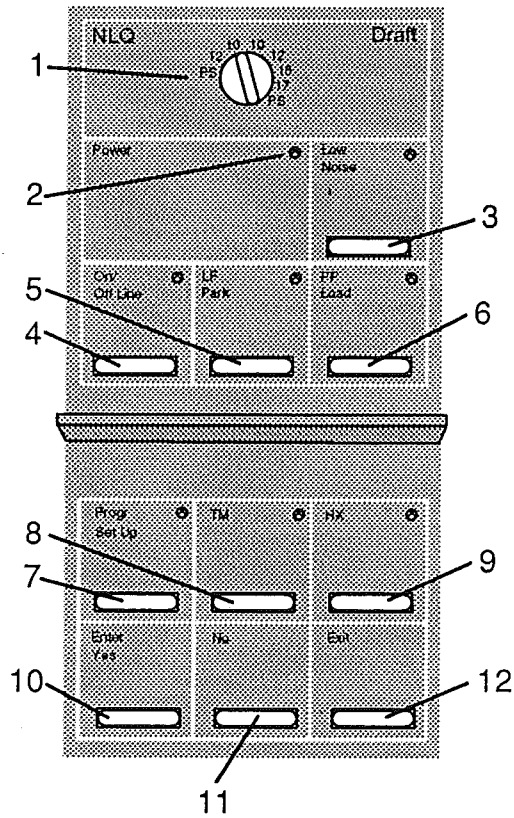
This push-on/push-off switch, when depressed, will toggle the printer between normal print functions and transparent mode. In transparent mode the printer will only print the basic 9 x 9 dot character set and ignore all printer commands other than line feed and carriage return. When in the transparent mode the amber light emitting diode will be illuminated.

HX (HEXADECIMAL MODE) SWITCH (9)

This push button switch is to be held depressed whilst turning on the printer to place it in hexadecimal mode. In hexadecimal mode the printer will print all the received characters and commands as their hexadecimal value. When in the hexadecimal mode the amber light emitting diode will be illuminated.

ENTER/YES SWITCH (10)

This push button switch, when depressed, will enter the printer into an interactive set up mode. During this interactive mode the printer will print a series of questions and depressing this key will give an affirmative response. The first question asks if instructions for the set up procedure are required; depressing this key to confirm will result in the set up instructions being printed out.



DRESSER-RAND-POWER

DR61G(000)-1-2-18

NO SWITCH (11)

This push button switch is depressed to advance through the presented alternatives and/or give a negative answer to presented alternatives.

EXIT SWITCH (12)

This push button switch is depressed to return to the main menu of the set up procedure or from the main menu to exit the set up procedure.

4 PRINT BUFFER

The Data Logger Print Buffer has a buffer memory of 64k bytes. The power supply to the buffer is by way of a transformer unit that connects directly into a 110V ac power output socket. The Transformer output lead terminates in a multi-way connector the appropriate adaptor being inserted into the power input connector in the rear of the Print Buffer Unit. The Transformer Selectors should be set for the appropriate input and an output of 9 Volt DC.

The Print Buffer has the following Switches and Indicators:

POWER ON/OFF SWITCH

This sliding switch is located at the rear of the Print Buffer alongside the power input socket.

POWER (1)

This Indicator will be illuminated when the POWER ON/OFF Switch is 'On' and power is supplied to the Print Buffer from the 9 Volt DC Transformer Unit.

PAUSE SWITCH AND INDICATOR (3 & 2)

When depressed the Pause Switch (3) will halt the sending of data to the Printer. The Pause Indicator (2) will illuminate while the Print Buffer is in the Pause Mode. The Print Buffer will continue to receive Data from the Data Logger until the memory (64k) is full.

Depressing the Pause Switch (3) a second time will disable the Pause Mode and the Print Buffer will resume transmission of the stored Data to the Printer. The Pause Indicator (2) will extinguish.

The Pause Indicator will also briefly illuminate during the self-test procedure for the Print Buffer. If this Indicator blinks slowly or remains illuminated during the self-test procedure a fault is indicated.

COPY SWITCH AND INDICATOR (5 & 4)

Depressing the Copy Switch (5), after Data has been downloaded from the Data Logger Terminal, will send the Data to the Printer a second time. Depressing this Switch a number of times will send the Data in the Print Buffer Memory to the Printer that number of times (up to a maximum of 255). The red Copy Indicator (4) will be illuminated when the copy function is in progress.

The Copy Switch is used in conjunction with the Clear Switch (7) to perform a self-test for the Print Buffer. To operate a self test for the Print Buffer (prior to connecting the power supply):

- » Hold the COPY Switch (5) depressed at the same time as the CLEAR Switch (7) and turn the power on.
- » The PAUSE (3), COPY (5) and CLEAR (7) Indicators should each briefly illuminate in sequence. Flashing Indicators or steady lights in any of these three locations will indicate a fault.

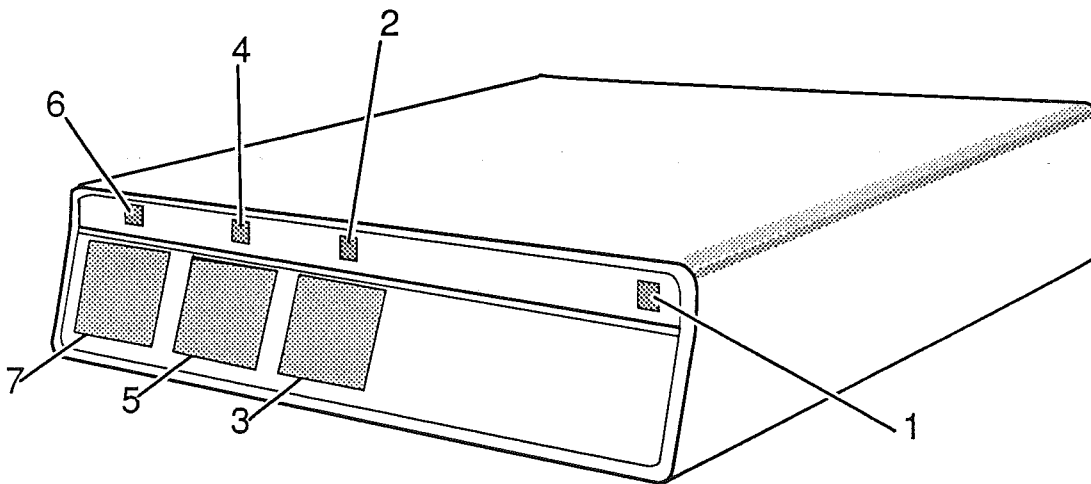


Figure 18.3 - Print Buffer

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DR61G(000)-1-2-18

CLEAR SWITCH AND INDICATOR (7 & 6)

Depressing the Clear Switch (7) will stop sending Data to the Printer and clear any Data in the Print Buffer Memory.

The red Clear Indicator (6) will illuminate if there is an overflow of Data. If the Clear Switch (7) is depressed to clear the overflow the entire contents of the Buffer Memory will be erased without printing.

The Clear Switch is used in conjunction with the Copy Switch (5) to perform a self-test for the Print Buffer. To operate a self test for the Print Buffer (prior to connecting the power supply):

- » Hold the COPY Switch (5) depressed at the same time as the CLEAR Switch (7) and turn the power on.
- » The PAUSE (3), COPY (5) and CLEAR (7) Indicators should each briefly illuminate in sequence. Flashing Indicators or steady lights in any of these three locations will indicate a fault.